

## **Speakers List**

(See page 3 for Case study presenters)

### **Keith Atkinson – RPF, CEO, First Nations Forestry Council**

Keith is a Registered Professional Forester and has done extensive work in the areas of forest development and management throughout much of Coastal British Columbia. Keith obtained his BSF in Forest Resource Management from the University of British Columbia in 1994.

Keith was the President and General Manager for a privately owned and operated Forest Management consulting company for numerous years. He is a member of many associations and Boards of Directors where he continues to focus on finding ways to assist and improve First Nations involvement and participation in the BC forest industry.

Keith joined the BC First Nations Forestry Council in 2007 as the Chief Executive Officer to present where he remains committed to the vision of the BC First Nations Forestry Council. He currently resides in North Vancouver with his wife Andrea.

### **Raman Gill – P.Ag, Industry Specialist, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands**

Raman has a very diverse background, being born and raised on a farm and then pursuing a degree in food science and career in agriculture. Before taking on a full time role with the Ministry 2 years ago, Raman was employed in the private sector. She has a strong interest in working with both industry groups and individual businesses

### **Michael Kerr – B.Sc., MBA, Industrial Technology Advisor -National Research Council**

With a degree in Chemistry from SFU and an MBA from Athabasca University, Michael Kerr has worked as a chemist in various research and development positions over the years. In 1997 he took on a new role as Industrial Technology Advisor for the National Research Council (NRC), covering northern BC. In this position he has worked with over 1000 proprietors and small companies, three of which have been ranked as the fastest growing 100 companies in Canada by Profit Magazine. Currently, Michael also serves as a part-time instructor with the UNBC Faculty of Business. Courses taught include Management Science, Operations Management, Entrepreneurship, Management of Information Science and at the Graduate level – Management of Technology.

Michael is also passionate about using his skills to give back to his community. He is a past president of the Prince George Chamber of Commerce and currently serves on the Board of Mercy Ships International and the Prince George Symphony. In 2008 he was named Prince George Citizen of the Year. He and his wife are parents to 4 children aged 13 to 3, and hobbies include golf, floor hockey and biking (when he gets time).

### **Erica Nitche – P.Ag, First Nations Agrologist, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands**

Erica grew up in the North Okanagan in a rural area near Armstrong. She completed a Bachelor of Natural Resource Science from Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops and is now a professional Agrologist. Prior to her career in agriculture Erica worked in the forest industry. During that time she worked in planning, development and silviculture. Realizing her passion in food production, she transitioned from forestry to agriculture. She now works as a First Nations

Agrologist with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in Williams Lake. Through her work she works with First Nations organizations, communities and individuals of the central interior. The aim of her work is to support and build agriculture business management capacity within First Nations communities in British Columbia. This work includes delivering workshops, providing information and advice, and developing tools and resources.

**George Powell – PhD, P.Ag, Consulting Agrologist, AgForInsight.com**

George is consultant and founder of AgForInsight.com, specializing in providing planning, research and development support for agroforestry and other integrated resource management. He has a PhD from the University of Alberta in agroforestry, as well as degrees from the University of BC in agronomy and range management. George was previously employed with the BC Ministry of Forests leading a research group examining rangeland ecology and management. From 2004 to 2008 he was the facilitator for the BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative and has worked on a variety of other agroforestry, agriculture and economic development projects in Western Canada.

**Dave Trotter – P.Ag, Agroforestry Specialist, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands**

Dave works in the areas of agroforestry, riparian management and Environmental Farm Planning. He completed his BSc at McGill and his MSc at SFU and was previously employed as an extension specialist in reforestation nurseries, early plantation establishment, forest health and constructed wetlands. He is a registered professional agrologist and biologist.

**Reg Whiten – P.Ag, MCIP, Senior Consultant, Interra Plan Inc.**

Reg Whiten is a land resource agrologist and rural development planner consultant with offices in both Whitehorse, Yukon and Moberly Lake, BC. He holds a BSc in Agriculture from the University of Guelph, a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning from the Faculty of Environmental Design, at the University of Calgary and as an Adult Educator with Vancouver Community College. Through his firm InterraPlan Inc., Reg has provided consulting services across Canada and overseas over the past 25 years in the fields of community resource management, watershed stewardship and integrated rural development. He has recently published on the topics of conservation-based enterprise, traditional & local ecological knowledge, and integrated resource planning. Together with other community development practitioners and other eco-preneurs, Reg helped established the Boreal Centre for Conservation Enterprise to help promote the non-timber forest products sector, and he currently sits as a regional Director on the BC Agroforestry Committee. For the past year, he has been heading up a planning team with the Peel Watershed Planning Commission in development of the Peel regional land-use plan.

**Lisa Zabek – P.Ag, Interior Agroforestry Specialist, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands**

Lisa joined the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands in 2008, working with the agroforestry portfolio. She completed a doctorate at the University of British Columbia, and has previously worked with MAL as a regional agrologist, and as a private consultant in natural resource management. Her work with the BC agriculture industry over the past several years has focused primarily on agroforestry, encompassing program planning, project design and monitoring, and tech transfer activities.



**Heloise Dixon-Warren, RPF, Owner, Moose Meadows Farm**

**Heloise Dixon-Warren**, owns and operates Moose Meadows Farm with her husband, Ted Traer, and their two school-aged daughters. Located west of Quesnel, the 65 acre farm was established in 2002 and is currently the only accredited agritourism farm in the Cariboo–Chilcotin. The farm and its stewards have also been the recipients of many awards: 2008 Award of Excellence for Innovation in Agriculture & Agri-Foods,” 2007 Quesnel Home Based Business Excellence Awards, and 2007 Innovator of the Year Award for Northern BC, Today’s Women’s Awards.

Sharing this success with others in her community is an important element of the work that takes place at Moose Meadows. Heloise has stood as President of FARMED (North Cariboo Agricultural Marketing Association / [www.farmed.ca](http://www.farmed.ca)), a Director with BC Agritourism Alliance, and the Quesnel Agricultural & Exhibition Association. In 2008, Heloise was appointed to the provincial Farm Assessment Review Panel which met regularly until the spring, 2009. She is the author of the “The Birch Syrup Production Manual – Tapping into Syrup Boreal Forest Style” which was published in 2007. Heloise is also profiled in the Women's Enterprise Book titled "*New Pioneers: Stories of 100 BC Women Entrepreneurs*" which was launched in October, 2008.

At the farm, Heloise and Ted, both registered professional foresters, believe in diversification. They accomplish this through “*Farming with the season.*” The farm, which operates as per an Environmental Farm Plan, offers a variety of products and incorporates both conventional and non-conventional agricultural practices including; agroforestry, agritourism, and non-timber forest products. Marketing of products takes place at the farm gate, through farmers markets and via the internet. In November, 2007 the onsite gift store “The Antler Shed Gift Shop” opened which has been a successful addition.

**Products and experiences offered by Moose Meadows Farm include the following:**

*Free Range Eggs, “Boreal Amber” Birch Syrup and Sugaring Off Events, Fresh Evergreen Products (Wreaths, Garlands, Advent Wreaths) and Wreath Decorating Workshops, Alpaca and Llama Fibre Products, Wild Jellies and Syrups (e.g. Dandelion Blossom, Fireweed Blossom, Saskatoon Berry, Highbush Cranberry), Seasonal Farm Events, Summer Horse Pasture, Educational Farm Tours, Birthday in the Barnyard and Rustic Furniture*

**More information available at: [www.moosemeadowsfarm.ca](http://www.moosemeadowsfarm.ca)**



### **Jennifer Cunningham – Ranch & Woodlot Owner, Jay Springs Ranch**

Jennifer grew up on the Jay Springs Ranch and is a third-generation sheep farmer from Kamloops, British Columbia. The ranch is still owned by a family partnership, but managed and operated by Jennifer with her husband, Chris and daughter, Maggie. They also manage an adjoining woodlot license with Jen's brother Dean Bodman.

Jay Springs produces free -range lamb from a farm business that mixes agriculture, forestry, and direct marketing. An interest in combining forestry and using sheep for vegetation management and improving timber stands came from shepherding for five years on clear cut grazing projects, owning a woodlot dealing with the Western Pine Beetle epidemic and recent years, changing climate conditions.

Today, the ranch uses a flock of 150 crossbred ewes to develop an intensive rotational grazing system on domestic and forested range pastures. The objective is to produce more grass, more trees, and more lamb. As well, Jay Springs has been involved in a cooperative effort to build a value chain with the Jay Springs flock and 8 local flocks to sell their lamb, mutton and wool through a number of Greater Vancouver and local Farmers Markets and local restaurants for the last 10 years. Jennifer is past president of the BC Sheep Federation, past BC rep to the Canadian Sheep Federation, and member of the BC Agroforestry Management Committee.

**More information available at: [www.jayspringslamb.ca](http://www.jayspringslamb.ca)**

# SISKA TRADITIONS

## **Chief Fred Sampson – Chief Executive Officer, Siska Traditions Society**

Established in 2002, the Society embraces the triple bottom line, which are: social, economic and environmental values. The business produces teas, soaps, jams and other products from wild harvested plants. It is governed by a board made up of six Siska community members including a diverse cross sections of both elders and youth. To assure plants are harvested sustainably and respectfully the Society has implemented a harvest certification program.

The Siska Traditions Society has the purpose of developing socio-economic opportunities, promoting traditional values and protecting Siska Aboriginal rights. The idea for the society came out of the protest and court case in 1999 relating to the logging of the pristine Siska Watershed, where Siska receives their drinking water. During the blockade the people found a sense of togetherness; they revived ceremonial activities within the watershed. The community members and leaders realized they would need to show that the watershed was still being used today as it was in the past. The community decided to get into the non-timber forest products sector as a means of developing the community's economy and strengthening the member's connections to their land. Chief Fred Sampson has provided an instrumental role in leading the business to being the success story that it is today.

The Siska community is located 12 km south of Lytton, British Columbia within the Nlaka'pamux traditional territory. The Siska Band with 292 members is one of 16 bands within the Nlaka'pamux First Nation. This area is a hotbed of biodiversity, ranging from the coastal rainforest to the interior desert. Anthropologist, Nancy Turner has recorded over 120 plants used by the Nlaka'pamux for food, flavouring and beverages. These bountiful ecosystems coupled with Nlaka'pamux knowledge of plants allow the Society to create economic diversity while respecting traditional values.

**More information available at: [www.siskatraditions.org](http://www.siskatraditions.org)**



## **Mike Christian – Manager, Esh-Kn-Am Cultural Resources Management Services**

**Waytkp** (Hello All)

I am one of ten children (five sisters and five brothers). I am a member and former Chief of the Splitsin First Nation - formerly known as - Spallumcheen Indian Band. The Splitsin First Nation is one of 17 that make up the Secwepemc (a.k.a.) Shuswap Nation. I live and work in Spences Bridge, B.C. I am currently employed as Manager of Esh-kn-am Investments Joint Venture. The Joint Venture was established in 1997 by the Coldwater, Nooaitch, Cooks Ferry & Siska Indian Bands.

**Kukwstsámc!** (Thank You)

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Esh-kn-am Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Services is a land and cultural resources management company working on behalf of Coldwater, Cook's Ferry and Siska Indian Bands under Esh-kn-am Investments Joint Venture. This Company is owned by the Coldwater, Cook's Ferry, Nooaitch and Siska Indian Bands.

### Esh-Kn-Am Investments Joint Venture - An Overview

"Esh-Kn-Am" is the Nlaka'pamux phrase "to support or help along". The Cook's Ferry, Siska, Coldwater and Nooaitch Indian Bands established Esh-Kn-Am Investments Joint Venture in July 1997.

As a founding member of the joint venture, Chief Walkem works with his fellow Esh-Kn-Am Management Committee Members: Chief Fred Sampson (Siska Indian Band); (Nooaitch Indian Band); and Harry Spahan (Coldwater Indian Band) in growing their investments both in terms of wealth and employment. At present, Esh-Kn-Am has approximately 15 full-time positions.

"As a joint venture, we are proving to others that we can effectively manage our economic opportunities and compete within the forest sector in a way that respects ecological, socio-cultural and financial interests within the Nlaka'pamux territory", says Chief Walkem, RPF, MBA.

**More information available at: [www.eshknam.ca](http://www.eshknam.ca)**